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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,259	11/01/2001	Junichi Yamagishi	45762/264216	2481
23370	7590	09/24/2004		
JOHN S. PRATT, ESQ KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP 1100 PEACHTREE STREET ATLANTA, GA 30309			EXAMINER CHERUBIN, YVESTE GILBERTE	
			ART UNIT 3713	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,259

Applicant(s)

YAMAGISHI, JUNICHI

Examiner

Yveste G. Cherubin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the communication filed June 23, 2004. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 have been withdrawn. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 are pending.

Specification

2. The amended abstract has been reviewed and has been considered. However, the amended abstract still does not comply with the requirements. See the bolded underlined texts below.

Abstract

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to **a single paragraph on a separate sheet** within the **range of 50 to 150 words**. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as **"means"** and **"said," should be avoided**. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The specification contains a plurality of grammatical errors. The Examiner is urging Applicant to go over the entire specification and correct those errors. No new matter can be entered.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 7, 9, 11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 8, claim 7, line 1 recites *according to claims 3*, the word "claims" needs to be changed to 'claim '.

Page 9, claim 9, line 1 recites *according to claims 1*, the word "claims" needs to be changed to 'claim '.

Page 10, claim 11, line 1 recites *according to claims 3*, the word "claims" needs to be changed to 'claim '.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa (JP Patent No. 09117567-translated version of record) in view of Stieber et al. (US PGPubs 2002/0111157).

As per claim 1, Hasegawa discloses the recited limitations in this instant invention with the exception of the network interface connecting the medal keeping and paying server apparatus and the plurality of medal keeping and playing client apparatus. Networked devices are known in the art and provides many advantages. Stieber is being cited to

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teach a wireless networked cash management system, see title, wherein a system control unit, which may be a network server, is attached to a plurality of distributed cash handling devices (11), page 2, section [0018]. The above section is cited to meet the recited limitations as claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to improve upon the system taught by Hasegawa by implementing the improvements detailed above by Steiber because it would provide the system taught by Hasegawa with the enhanced capability of interconnecting a plurality of devices via a computer network. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate the sharing of data.

Regarding claim 3, Steiber teaches a plurality of devices having the storing means, page 2, section [0017], page 3, section [0022]. Accordingly, Steiber is being cited to meet the claimed limitations.

Regarding claims 5, 7, Hasegawa discloses right person information storing means storing the right person peculiar information in a personal record card (A) see Means for Solving the Problem, section [0010], reading means for reading the right person peculiar information from the information record card (32a), the processing sections to process information read on the record card to authenticate the right person (5a), see Means for Solving Problem, section [0011].

Regarding claims 9, 11 Hasegawa discloses index information inputting means (32a) for inputting index information to read out the right person peculiar information from the right person information storing means (A), wherein the processing section processes

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the right person peculiar information read out by the input index information to authenticate the right person (5a).

Prior Art Citations

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Japanese Patent No. 405216865A to Nishigami, which teaches device and system for managing game implement – translation provided.

b. Japanese Publication Number 2003-058932 to Takahashi, which teaches device for depositing/paying coin and method for sorting and collecting coin transferred in the same device.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. See rejection above.

Conclusion

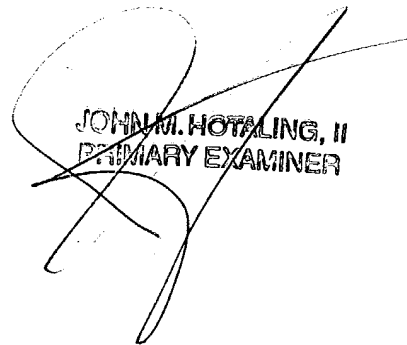
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yveste G. Cherubin whose telephone number is (703) 306-3027. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 - 6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, A. Wellington can be reached on (703) 308-2159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER